

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 SCS-03 /015 W

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P 261040Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4357

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 0892

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, OGEN, NP

SUBJECT: PERMIT TO CLIMB MT. EVEREST

REFERENCE: STATE 045284

1. EMBASSY FEB. 26 HAS SENT FOLLOWING LETTER BASED ON REFTEL
TO MOHAN PANDE, UNDER SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

BEGIN QUOTE: DEAR MR. PANDE:

WITH REFERENCE TO THE EMBASSY'S LETTER OF DECEMBER 19, 1975
CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF REVEREND ROGER FORD TO CLIMB
MOUNT EVEREST, I WISH TO INFORM THE MINISTRY THAT THE DEPART-
MENT OF STATE DOES NOT REGARD ITS ENDORSEMENT OF REVEREND
FORD'S SOLO APPLICATION ON DECEMBER 19, 1975 UNDER THE PRE-
VIOUS "RULES GOVERNING MOUNTAIN CLIMBING" TO BE APPLICABLE
TO HIS GROUP APPLICATION WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HAS NOW BEEN
SUBMITTED. SINCE WE ARE UNABLE TO JUDGE THE QUALIFICATIONS
OF THE CLIMBERS WHO NOW WISH TO ACCOMPANY REVEREND FORD
AND SINCE WE HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED OF ANY ENDORSEMENT
OF THE GROUP BY A RESPONSIBLE ALPINE CLUB, THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT CANNOT ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
GROUP'S QUALIFICATIONS OR ACTIONS

GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE NEW MOUNTAINEERING REGULATIONS
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT ON JANUARY 26 CALL,
IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, FOR ENDORSEMENT OF APPLICATIONS
BY A "REPUTED AND RECOGNIZED MOUNTAINEERING INSTITUTION", THE
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOW CONSIDERS THAT IT IS RELIEVED OF

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVIDING SUCH ENDORSEMENTS AS OF THE
DATE OF THE NEW RULES.

SINCERELY YOURS,

JAMES R. FALZONE

ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION

END QUOTE

2. PANDE TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER HE INTENDS TAKE UP MATTER
WITH JOINT SECRETARY BHATT FEB. 26 OR 27 AND HOPES TO HAVE
DECISION ON FORD AND TRIBLE APPLICATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. IN THE EVENT MFA DECIDES TO CANCEL FORD PERMIT THEY WILL
PROBABLY NOTIFY FORD DIRECTLY. DOES DEPARTMENT INTEND TO
COMMUNICATE ITS DECISION TO FORD?

CARGO

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NNN

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